

From The East



Brothers,

On August 19, the Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge performed its first degree in over a year and a half! It was a 1st degree for our new brother Nathaniel Gerdes and the last time we did a 1st degree as a lodge was more than two years ago. Nathaniel demonstrated a great deal of Masonic patience in waiting for his degree since the beginning of 2020; the trials and tribulations of the viral pestilence that affected our world these many months prevented it for that long. Certainly with the fires that are raging in California, the resurgence of the virus, and personal challenges that our members face, I want to commend the degree team members for coming to Thursday night practices and getting the job done.

It was indeed a pleasure getting together in person to practice our secret rhetorical discipline. This self improvement through ritual practice makes all the participants better men and better Masons. We could see that we needed to push ahead with the degree lest we face more uncertainty in the Fall. We tried to provide enough notice for you in last month's Trestleboard and we are sorry that you may not have heard about it in time for you to visit the lodge. All in all, I think that it was a spectacular degree given the challenges of brushing up our work last laid down so many months ago and, of course, the

uncertainty in our planning and the timing of the degree. Let me give a hardy well done to Nathaniel, our new brother, our officers' coach, Woody Purdy, and our entire degree team including Christopher Wright, Guy Chalmers, Jonathan Wong, George Whitten, Eugene Jeanne, David Sonnenberg, Steve Christensen, Vern Dorethy, Randy Stewart, and David Letasi.

Our Thursday evenings were filled with camaraderie and individual improvement in our memory and recitation. I also want to thank those who worked as understudies practicing parts that they were not able to deliver. All those who create excellent work will get to display that work at in-person degrees at our lodge in the future. For now we will be taking a break from in person activities, but I will be assigning new parts soon and I want all the brothers practicing on their own or in pairs.

We will be continuing online video stated meetings for the next month or so until community spread is reduced. At our last stated meeting, our Treasurer, Worshipful Wright, PM reminded us that in the last few years our means have grown much faster than our charity efforts to support our community. At our next stated meeting we will discuss what more can be done to support our first responders. Our firefighters, nurses, police, doctors, teachers and all those that are supporting us by going out in crowded or dangerous conditions deserve more credit and support. We may well also ask those brothers who sit

From The South



WHY CAN'T WE SIT IN THE NORTH?

I recall that on the first day I attended a meeting of Masons, we were all seated together on one side of the room. I thought it odd but did not mind it as I was listening intently to the exchanges between brothers. At the end of the session, when I had the opportunity, I asked why no one was seated "over there". A brother's answer was simple and went something like that: "That's the North. We don't sit in the North. There was no light in the north side of King Solomon's temple." Ok, that was the reason given. Well though, the ancients did not have electricity at that time, but they had torches, didn't they? I accepted his answer, but it was odd to me.

Later, I remembered from my classical education that the ancient Greeks called the far North Antarctikos, a land, a place that was not pleasant at all to Greeks accustomed to the warm climate of the southern Mediterranean. Kind of like the ancient Romans who called the left hand Sinistra, because assuredly to them, nothing good could come from the left (nothing to do with politics). And later these same ancient Romans did not particularly like to be sent to what would become Great Britain, because the climate just was not as desirable as that of the Mediterranean either.

From the East continued...

safely at home to do more to support California Masonic charity efforts like the Distressed Worthy Brother Fund. I know that there are brothers who are either sick or literally burned out of their homes and we must do more to support them. Please offer something of your ideas and time at our next stated meeting on September 2, 2021. See the link for the meeting in this issue, copy and paste it into your computer browser and join us at 7:00 p.m. where we expect to have a casual conversation with some new men who are interested in Masonry before we start our stated meeting.

Yours in support of our fraternity,

Don Nicodemus, Jr.,
Worshipful Master,
Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180

September Stated Meeting



Join us for our September Stated Meeting. Thursday September 2nd, 2021 at 7:00 pm

We will have an hour for social interaction and start the Meeting at 8:00 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nusc-org.zoom.us/j/81777094112?pwd=SHd3MDZNaHl3blhYQUpQMmxpTHhwQT09>

Dial by your location

1 888 788 0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 833 6610 2609
Passcode: 924942

From the South continued...

Thus, I thought, a plausible explanation to not liking of the North could be that it equals cold or bad weather so it's not preferable to more temperate climes. Sounds logical.

In addition, there is the reality that humans in the northern hemisphere observed from the dawn of ages that come autumn and wintertime, when the light of the mid-day sun strikes objects, shadows are cast on the ground that stretch to the north, opposite of the Sun. North, therefore, conjures shadows, darkness and North could be construed as the symbol of something that is not so good. You can't see in the dark. Sounds logical too.

Still, I am generally curious, and let's come back to King Solomon's Temple (KST)...How was it situated and which part was North such that people would not maybe congregate there? Of course, there are no pictures of the ruins of the Temple, there aren't even ruins of it. The internet offers various gravures or renditions of what the Temple may have looked like, some depicting a gigantic structure with hundreds if not thousands of columns and pilasters, an edifice that appears quite long with steps leading to a tall edifice in the center that included the Holy of Holies. Using Google Maps, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is large but does not look ginormous to me and it has more the form of a squashed rectangle than a square and, if the Temple itself was rather long on a North-South Axis, one of the ends would have been pointing northward and the other southward, with the Holy of Holies,

probably facing the East since that is where the Sun rises. But that probably was not so unless the Domes of the Tablets and of the Ascension, which are now in the West, were not there at the time of King Solomon, or the Holy of Holies was a rather diminutive building, which it could not have been given the divine objects it contained: it would therefore have to have been grand, spacious, imposing, or so I suppose. Or was it in an East-West axis, with the Holy of Holies in the center? In that case, the Temple would certainly not be as long as if it had been North-South and it would have been facing South since that's where the mid-day Sunlight comes from. But the Holy of Holies' back wall would have been pointing to the North? Perish the thought! It's confusing: an archeologist I am not and do not profess to be. So, with regards to the physical KST, I can't quite wrap my mind around how it was situated: I do not know if it was facing East and which of its ends or sides would have been pointing North. Not quite logical and rather inconclusive.

So, let's come back to the very notion of the four cardinal directions. We know that East and West are perpendicular to the North and South. Good. We Masons like right angles and perpendiculars. If you look at the map with the North at the top, you see vertical lines for the North-South axis. Good. Masons like vertical lines too. Does that have anything to do with it? Maybe, you be the judge. Since the North epitomizes darkness, the absence of light, and Masons seek Light, it is symbolically logical that North is not where you want to be, so don't sit there when a Lodge is

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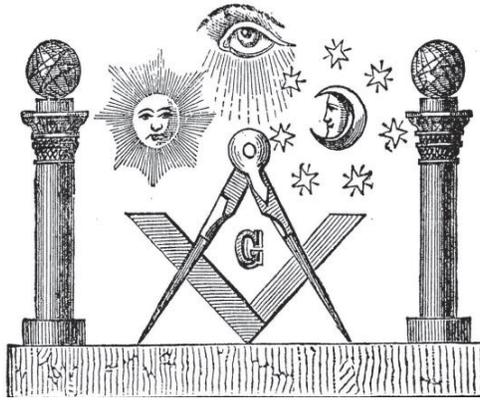
Secretary, Guy Chalmers: 707-477-3046 E-Mail: JMC329@aol.com

in session; it is a no-no. The South is where the midday Sun shines the brightest so it's good to be there and Masons sit there. And it's good to be in the West at the close of the day when the Sun is usually at its warmest, but it's getting closer to the dark of night...And thus, it's best to be in the East for that's where and when the Sun rises in all its glorious light, where the Lodge Master and potent Lodge officers sit.

Except for the physical structure of the KST, all these thoughts do make sense. Let's sum up and return to my original question above. For Masons, the North is something to strictly avoid when we are in session. You. May. Not. Sit. There. As Masons, we do away with some traditional symbols in a Lodge. But not this one. Superstition? If you sit there, a lightning bolt is going to strike your skull open, pop your eyes out, and burn you to a crisp or something?! Arumpfff! You think about it.

Fraternally,

Eugene Jeanne
Junior Warden



**SANTA ROSA RURAL CEMETERY
MASONIC PLAQUE DEDICATION**

When:

Thursday, October 14th at 12:00 pm.

Where:

Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery,
Masonic Plot
1600 Franklin Ave, Santa Rosa, Ca

We will be honoring the memory of the past Masons and Eastern Star who are buried at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Masonic Plot by dedicating this plaque.

Please Contact Brother Paul Stathatos with your reservation at (707) 538-8720 or pstats54@gmail.com

Immediately following the Masonic Dedication Ceremony please join us for a complimentary brown bag lunch

Your Choice of Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef or Veggie Sandwich
Salad, and Chips Soda or Water

Walking shoes recommended due to the uneven ground.

Masonic Quotes

“There is no telling how many miles you will have to run while chasing a dream. Persistence and perseverance is the key. I may not be there yet, but I’m closer than I was yesterday.”

Brandon Garic Notch



- Lance Norgrove September 1st
- Mark Rousey-Seidel September 3rd
- Kevin Campbell September 4th
- Joern Kroll September 8th
- Keith Tyler September 15th
- Douglas Noren September 16th
- Albert Beherns September 17th
- Sheldon Ornstein September 18th
- Albert Enyart September 19th
- Frank Prim September 20th
- Kevin Eddy September 21th
- Jerome Nathan September 24th
- David Jacobs September 28th
- Edwin Barr September 30th

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of California**

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visit:www.masonichome.org
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or call: 888/466-3642.

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September 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Hall Association (virtual)	2  Stated Meeting (virtual)	3	4
5	6  Royal Arch #22 Virtual Meeting	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		